AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of modulating the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 or osteopontin in an animal, said method comprising the step of introducing into the animal an amount of a molecule, selected from the group consisting of osteopontin and a thrombospondin 2 antagonist, effective to modulate the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 or osteopontin in the animal.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein an antagonist of thrombospondin 2 is introduced into the animal.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 is decreased by said antagonist of thrombospondin 2.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the thrombospondin 2 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of an antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule, an anti-thrombospondin 2 antibody, a thrombospondin 2 blocking peptide and a thrombospondin 2 ribozyme.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein an antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule is introduced into the animal.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule is at least ninety percent identical to the complement of a thrombospondin 2 cDNA consisting of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 3.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule hybridizes under stringent conditions to a thrombospondin 2 cDNA molecule consisting of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 3.

8-9. (Canceled)

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10. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein a thrombospondin 2 ribozyme is introduced into the animal.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein osteopontin is introduced into the animal.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the molecule is introduced into the animal by a method selected from the group consisting of injection, as a component of a lipid complex, as a component of an implanted porous matrix, and by immobilization onto an implanted surface.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein an antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule is incorporated within a delivery device which is introduced into the animal.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the delivery device comprises a porous matrix wherein the thrombospondin 2 antisense nucleic acid molecule is disposed.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the animal is exhibiting a wound response, and the amount of the introduced molecule is effective to improve the wound response.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein the molecule is an antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein osteopontin and an antagonist of thrombospondin 2 are introduced into the animal.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the antagonist to thrombospondin 2 is an antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule.

19 - 27. (Canceled)

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28. (New) A method of modulating the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 or osteopontin in an animal, said method comprising the step of introducing into an animal a structure comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of (a) an antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, and (b) osteopontin that is at least 70% identical to an osteopontin molecule consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the agent is present in an amount effective to modulate the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 or osteopontin in the animal.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28 wherein the agent is an antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule.

30. (New) The method of Claim 28 wherein the agent is osteopontin.

31. (New) The method of Claim 28 wherein the structure is a medical device adapted to be affixed to, or implanted within, the soft tissue of an animal.

32. (New) The method of Claim 31 where the medical device is selected from the group consisting of a vascular graft, a vascular stent, an artificial blood vessel, an artificial bone joint, a biosensor, and a percutaneous device.

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